

**SOUTHWEST FISHERIES SCIENCE CENTER**  
**FOURTH QUARTER REPORT-FY 2003**  
For the Period July 1 - September 30, 2003

**Submitted by:** Norman Bartoo, Acting Division Director, Fisheries Resources Division

**Title of Accomplishment or Milestone:** Report on ichthyoplankton and station data for Mini-CalCOFI (El Niño) survey cruises in 1997 and 1998.

Ambrose, D. A., R. L. Charter, H. G. Moser. 2003. Ichthyoplankton and station data for surface (Manta) and oblique (Bongo) plankton tows for Mini-California Cooperative Oceanic Fisheries Investigation survey cruises in 1997 and 1998. U.S. Dep. Commer., NOAA Tech. Memo., NOAA-TM-NMFS-SWFSC-351. 69 pp.

**Current Status:** Report completed and will be distributed before the end of the fiscal year.

**Background Information:** This report, the 60<sup>th</sup> in the series, provides ichthyoplankton data from Manta net tows (surface) and Bongo net tows (oblique) and associated station and tow data from a series of eight Mini-California Cooperative Oceanic Fisheries Investigations cruises designed to monitor the 1997-1998 El Niño conducted in the southern California Bight region.

**Purpose of Activity:** To monitor the ichthyoplankton abundance and distribution in the Southern California Bight region.

**Description of Accomplishment and Significant Results:** This report summarized the results of sampling at 122 stations in which 1369 individual larval fish specimens in 36 taxa were collected in Manta net tows and 25,428 individual larval fish in 108 taxa were taken in Bongo net tows.

**Significance of Accomplishment:** Extended the long-term time series of ichthyoplankton monitoring of the California Current region.

**Problems:** None

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